

## COUNCIL MEETING

April 9, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on April 9, 2025 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Meehan, Tony Orr and Shannon Prown. Mayor Bill Hale, Controller John Neilson, Treasurer Chris Bourke, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy were also present.

Residents attending the meeting were Efe Aktug, Geoff Cox, David Dee, Megan Ferris, Lin Finelli, Paul Haerling, Peter Howell, Larry Kutys, Julio Loo, Heather Mineau, Ken Moyer, Sarah Mutter, Joe Ranizewski, Kyle Sperry, Lisa Valenti and Michael Valente. Amy Caruso from the "Swarthmorean" attended as a guest.

### MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dee reported that he had investigated a statement made by a person at a previous meeting that she had been yelled at by a School Lane resident while dropping off her child at the School in Rose Valley. He said he had asked all the homeowners on School Lane if they knew anything about this incident and none of them did.

Sarah Mutter of 31 Briarcrest Drive discussed the fence constructed by her husband Bruce along the rear of their property abutting Sackville Mills Lane noting that the fence is well-constructed and safe, and was already completed when the Trimborns moved in. She also said that, contrary to what was implied by Mrs. Trimborn at the last meeting, Mr. Trimborn never brought up the fence with her husband during their time they spent together as friends. She explained they had taken down many trees in response to aggressive communications from the Mills at Rose Valley Homeowners Association prior to constructing the new fence for privacy. Ken Moyer of 27 Briarcrest Drive said he also took down many trees in response to similar pressure from the Mills at Rose Valley HOA. Michael Valenti of 35 Briarcrest Drive spoke in support of the Mutter's fence. Megan Ferris of 5 Brookview Lane said the proposed fence ordinance should allow fences taller than 6 feet and suggested 8 feet as more appropriate.

Peter Howell, vice president of the Rose Valley Museum Board, reported that the Museum will be open the weekend of April 26 and that a lecture on architect Will Price will take place on April 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the School in Rose Valley.

## ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby thanked Kathy Siwicki for organizing the Second Annual Free the Trees events on March 29 and April 5 noting 184 trees were freed from invasive English ivy growing up their trunks. The EAC meeting on April 25 was well attended and featured a presentation on PECO Energy Assessments, which almost everyone in attendance signed up for. The Annual Native Plant Sale will be held on May 10. Volunteer workdays in the wildlife preserves will be held on May 10 and 17.

Mr. Busby reviewed the proposed Fowl Ordinance. After much discussion, it was suggested and agreed that Article IV, Section A should be revised to read “Fowl must be kept on their owner’s (s’) property by an Enclosure or supervision.” With this change, Mr. Busby made a motion that Ordinance 358 setting forth the requirements for the ownership of Fowl in the Borough of Rose Valley be adopted. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by individual voice vote.

## HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr requested approval of Resolution 4-2025 authorizing the application to Delaware County Council for the annual allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds in the amount of \$1,553. This resolution was then approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

## LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Library was well into its annual appeal, and that there will be another Food Truck Friday on April 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Delco Gives Days for nonprofit fundraising led by the Foundation for Delaware County will start on May 7 with Dining Under the Stars and end on May 9 at Rose Tree Park. She encouraged everyone to include a donation to the Library.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that our new State Police Community Liaison Officer was promoted so another person will have to be assigned. The March Police Report listed 5 calls for service including a welfare check, false alarm and traffic violation/erratic driver. The March Fire Report listed 2 responses including a brush fire and an automatic fire alarm. Town Watch patrols are proceeding as usual. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed device near Thunderbird Lodge, however no report was received for the device at the Borough Parking Lot. Efforts will be made to troubleshoot and resolve this problem.

A possible ban on open burning due to drought was put on the agenda but recent rains have resolved the issue for now. Mr. Smith will look into the appropriate procedure for declaring a burning ban, which might involve the Fire Marshall or the Mayor. It was noted that only the

burning of twigs, sticks, branches or logs is permitted in the Borough; the burning of leaves or trash is prohibited.

Two additional bids were obtained to take down the large poplar tree on Borough property behind 103 Traymore Lane which Carney Tree Company had previously offered to remove for \$3,000. Jakes Tree Service bid \$8,000 to remove this tree and another nearby, and Flynn Tree Services bid \$3,500 for the one. After some discussion, Carney Tree Company was approved to remove the tree for \$3,000 on a motion made, seconded and approved by 5 yes votes with Mr. Hare and Mr. Busby abstaining.

### PLANNING

Mrs. Prown made a motion authorizing the preparation and execution of additional temporary construction easements as needed for the Rose Valley Road walking path project which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith presented the proposed fence ordinance, Mr. Sullivan proposed several revisions, and various other changes were suggested with considerable discussion. It was agreed that the definition of fence should include privacy as a purpose, that a definition of deer fencing should be provided, and that the permitted fence height should be increased from 6 to 8 feet, along with certain other changes. Mr. Smith and Mr. Sullivan will work on preparing a revised draft of the fence ordinance for the next meeting. Mr. Hale noted that if the fence ordinance is adopted, the fence erected by the Mutters would be grandfathered and could be repaired as needed and rebuilt using allowed materials if damaged or deteriorated. It was also noted that the impetus for the fence ordinance had nothing to do with the Mutter's fence but came instead from other concerns including swimming pool fencing.

### FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the March 31, 2025 Status of Funds and reported he had reconciled the bank accounts. Mr. Hare went over the March Income Report. Mr. Nielson reviewed the April Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills in the amount of \$45,641.85 from the General Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Smith informed Council that our franchise agreement with Comcast is up for renewal, that he has been in touch with the Comcast representative, and that he is working on a resolution authorizing the execution of the new 10-year agreement. Mr. Orr explained that the Borough also has a franchise agreement with Verizon and that these agreements allow the cable companies to provide services in the Borough in return for certain payments and services.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reminded everyone that annual large trash pickup will be on Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6. Residents should place all items to be picked up at the end of driveway by 8:00

am on the May 5. She also noted that the memorial service for former Mayor Tim Plummer will be held at St. John Chrysostom Church on Providence Road at 11:00 am on April 12, with prior visitation and a luncheon at The Springhaven Club at 2:00 pm. Paula will send flowers to Margee Plummer from the Borough.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale proposed that, in honor of recently deceased former Mayor Tim Plummer, the area known as Valley Green on the left side as you enter Old Mill Lane from Rose Valley Road be renamed Plummer Park. Mayor Plummer led the effort to rescue this one-acre lot in the heart of the Borough from development and preserve it as Open Space. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, it was agreed that the Valley Green will officially be renamed Plummer Park.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary